

Celebrate Freedom



**National Tartan Day
April 6**

www.TxScot.com for details

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A great day to wear plaid!

National Tartan Day is an annual day set aside by the U.S. Congress to recognize the contributions of Scottish Americans. April 6th was chosen because it was on that date in 1320 that the Scottish document The Declaration of Arbroath was written. This was the model for our own U.S. Declaration of Independence.

It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.

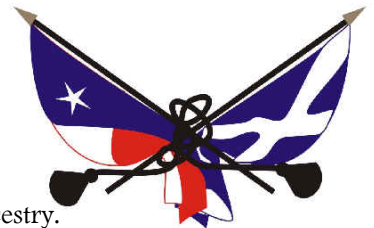
- Excerpt from the Declaration of Arbroath

What is Tartan? Tartan refers to fabric woven into plaid patterns which represent clans, families or regions in Scotland. A Tartan may be designed to commemorate a special event or person. In old Scotland, the Tartan was used for dress as well as a banner or flag. The kilt is made in special Tartan designs. Because a family or community worked the cloth together, their clothing was made of the same patterns, and so a person could be recognized by the Tartan plaid that he wore.

The Texas Bluebonnet Tartan became the official tartan for the State of Texas in 1989.

SCOTTISH TEXAS CONNECTION

- Houston, Dallas and Austin are all Scottish names!
- Over half of the counties of Texas are named for persons of Scottish ancestry.
- Aberdeen Angus cattle were first exported from Scotland into Texas in 1883.
- Over 40% of the original “300” Stephen F. Austin colonists were of Scottish ancestry.
- There were 30 Scots among those who fought in the Battle of the Alamo. Piper John MacGregor stood on the adobe walls in the midst of the battle to pipe the men on in true Scottish tradition.
- Ten men from Scotland financed the building of the state capitol in Austin. In exchange, the state government gave them 150,000 acres which became the famous XIT Ranch. The XIT stands for “Ten in Texas”.
- Most of the leaders who battled for Texas’ independence were of Scottish ancestry, i.e., Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, James Bowie, David Crockett, Peter J. Bailey, Henry P. Brewster, J.A. Brooks, David Burnet, Mathew Caldwell, Capt. Ewen Cameron, S.P. Carson and Robert Cochran.
- The oldest signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence was Collin McKinney, of Scottish descent. Both the county of Collin and the town of McKinney are named after him.



**For more information and to find local events commemorating Tartan Day
please visit www.TxScot.com**